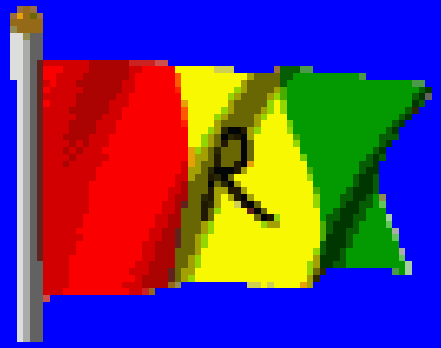
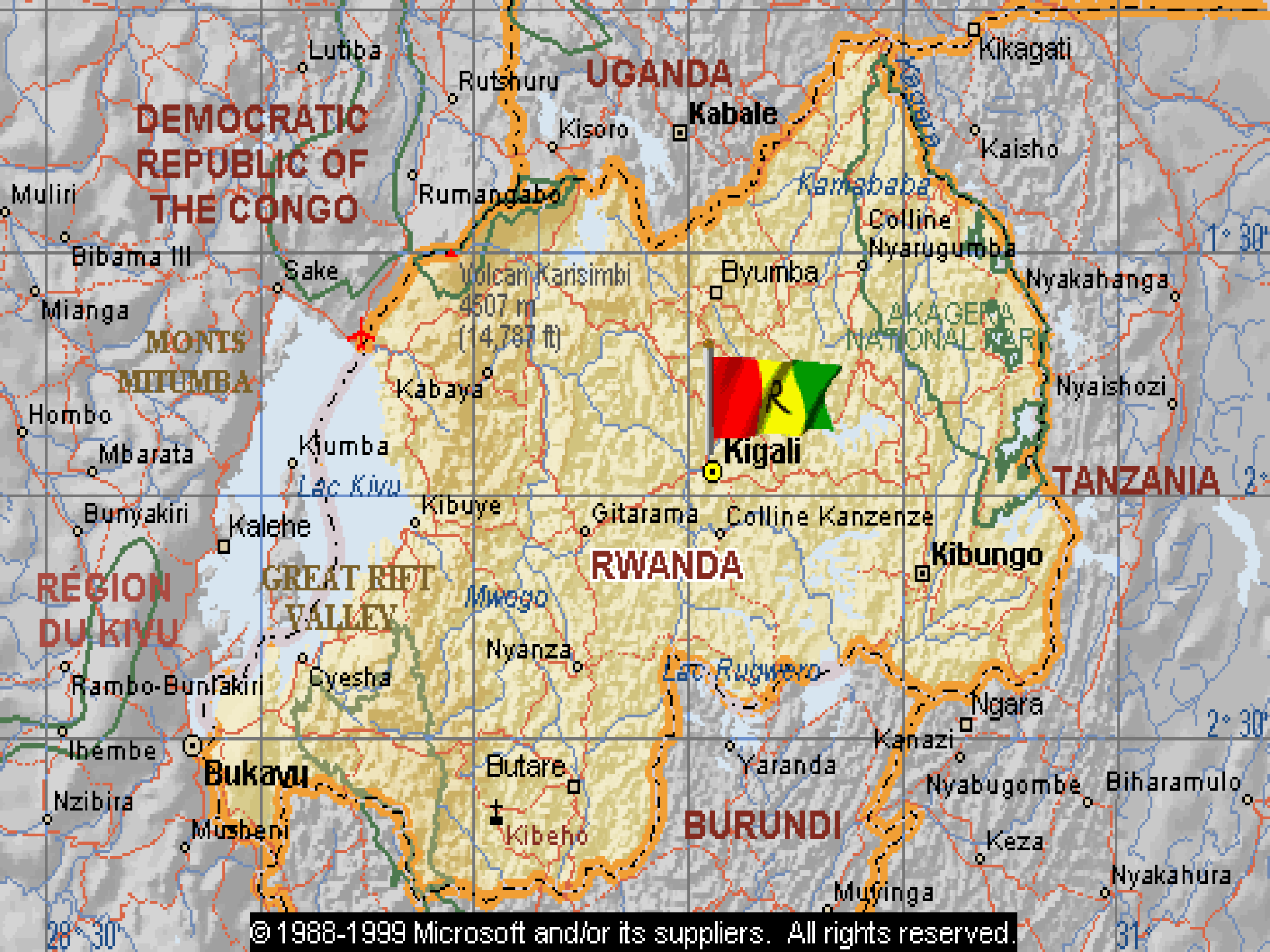
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING



RWANDA

(Republika y'u Rwanda)



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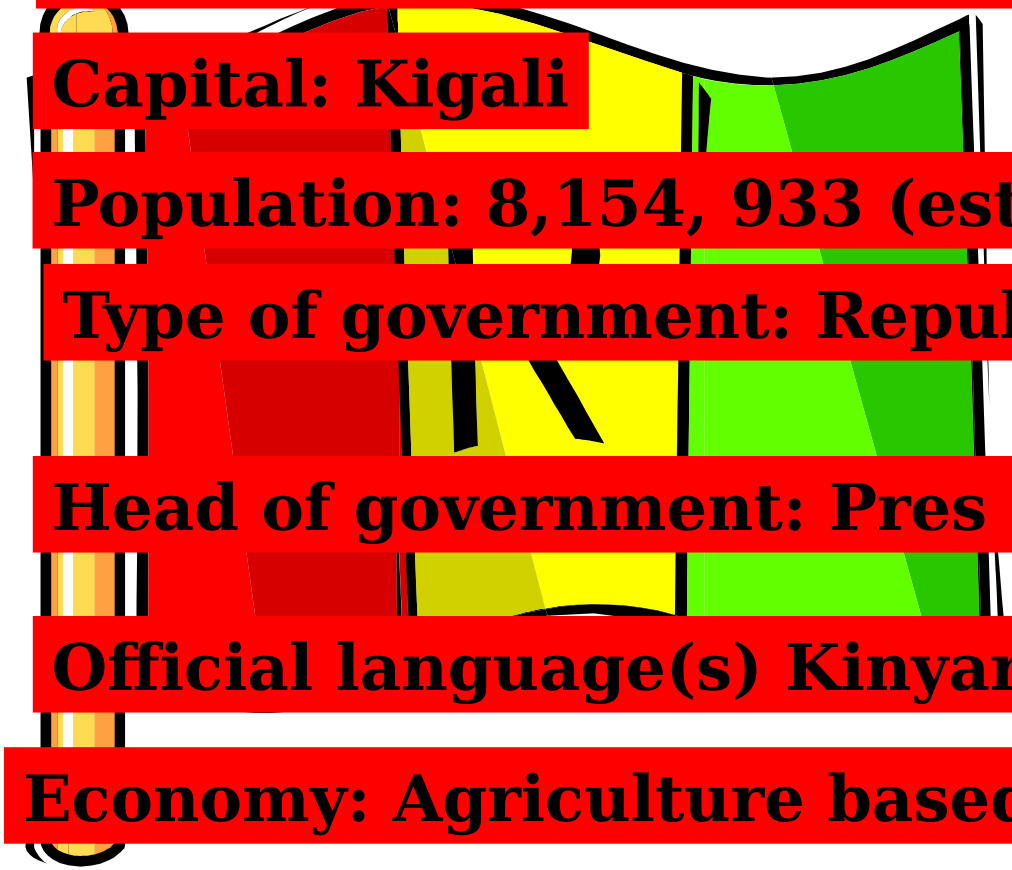
BACKGROUND

Full Name: Rwandese Republic



Capital: Kigali

Population: 8,154, 933 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: Pres Celestin Rwig

Official language(s) Kinyarwanda, Frenc

Economy: Agriculture based

Religions: Catholic (65%), Indigenous (25%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None.

INFORMATION

International Airport: Kigali

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: Boulevard De La Revolution B.P. 28, Kigali

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. In event of road accident, do not discuss with people on scene. Go directly to nearest civil or military authorities and notify USDAO/AMEMBASSY. .

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave require passports and visas. Visas must be obtained prior to arrival. Military personnel on leave require clearance or advance notice. Identification cards and orders are required. Passports are required for all travelers. For official travel, no-fee passports are required. Visas are required and must be obtained before arrival in Rwanda. Airport visas are not available. Personnel entering without a visa may be deported. US citizens are strongly advised to register with the Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required. International Certificates of Vaccination are inspected and should reflect current yellow fever and cholera vaccinations.

Duty-free entry for personal effects:

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HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Hotels and guesthouses are adequate in Kigali, the capital, and in major towns, but limited in remote areas. Non-residents are required to pay hotel bills in hard currency, travelers checks, or credit cards. Weapons may be carried for sport and hunting only with special permission from Rwandan Government. Permission should be requested before photographing local nationals. Discussion of ethnic issues is not recommended. Telephone communication to and from Rwanda can be unreliable. Cellular phones and Internet connections are available in Kigali and are generally reliable.

Amembassy observes US and local holidays.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: The Rwandan Franc is freely exchangeable for hard currencies in banks and "bureaux de change." Several Kigali banks can efficiently handle wire transfers from US banks; including Western Union. Credit cards are accepted at only a few hotels in Kigali and only to settle hotel bills. Travelers should expect to handle most expenses, including air tickets, in cash. Importation of Rwandan Francs is limited to 5,000 per person.

Rate: Approximate: 300 Rwandan francs for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, cold injuries, high elevation, and industrial pollution.

Availability of medical services: Poor. . Medical facilities are limited. Some medicines are in short supply or unavailable. Travelers generally bring their own supplies of prescription drugs and preventive medicines

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Rwanda. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor.

Health Precautions: Rwanda is considered a cholera-infected area. Yellow fever vaccination required of all travelers over one year of age.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, meningococcal vaccine, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Rwanda. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Boil and filter water. Use canned or dried milk. Cook meats thoroughly. Local vegetables and fruits should be washed well. Malarial suppressives are required. Insect repellents are recommended. Insurgents opposed to the current government launched attacks against Rwanda from bases in the DROC beginning in early 1997. While the government has largely brought the insurgency under control, sporadic attacks continue to occur in the northwest. U.S. citizens should avoid travel to the following communes (zones) in the northwest: Ndusu, Gatonde, Giciye, Kinigi, Mutura, Kidaho, Nyamyunba and Kayove. Unexploded ordnance still remains a danger off well-traveled roads in the northwest. The Government of Rwanda has recently reopened the Parc National des Volcans (translation: Viruga National Park) and will be providing

FORCE PROTECTION

One of the many Hutu rebel factions in the Great Lakes region has committed, and continues to threaten, violence against American citizens and interests. This faction was responsible for the March 1999 kidnapping and murder of several Western tourists, including U.S. citizens, in neighboring Uganda. A Hutu rebel faction was responsible for the kidnapping of four foreign nationals in August 1998 in a region of the DROC which borders Rwanda. Hutu rebel factions are known to operate in northeastern DROC and surrounding areas, including sections of Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi. Excessive speed, careless driving and the lack of basic safety equipment on many vehicles are a hazard. Drivers frequently have unexpected encounters with cyclists, pedestrians and livestock. Nighttime driving is particularly hazardous and discouraged. Roadways are often not marked and lack streetlights and shoulders. While the main roads in Rwanda are in relatively good condition, during the rainy season many side roads are passable only with four-wheel drive vehicles.

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Pick-pocketing in crowded public places is common, as is petty theft from cars and hotel rooms. The loss or theft of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to local police and to the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Rwanda is strict on: Firearms.

Liz Gilbert/Sygma
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WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

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CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Civilian clothing is preferred although uniform is permissible. Semitropical clothing is suitable all year.

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This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

RWANDA